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GROMYKO SPEAKS AT DINNER FOR KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER

LD 321905 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1900 GMT 2 DEC 75 LD

(TEXT) MOSCOW, DECEMBER 2 TASS--ANDREY GROMYKO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR, WHEN SPEAKING TODAY AT A DINNER WHICH HE GAVE IN HONOUR OF SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-JABIR AS-SABAH, KUWAITI MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO ARRIVED IN THE USSR FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, SAID:

RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DEVELOP NORMALLY, AND THE SOVIET UNION'S AND KUWAIT'S STAND ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ARE IDENTICAL OR CLOSE.

OUR MEETING IS TAKING PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FAVOURABLE CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA. A MARKED GROWTH OF THE ROLE OF PEACE FORCES ENABLES THEM TO HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON THE ENTIRE COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. A CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS IN THE WORLD IS THE EVER MOUNTING PROCESS OF RELAXATION OF TENSION, OF THE NORMALIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. THIS OPENS FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF YOUNG STATES, FOR CONSOLIDATION OF THEIR ROLE IN THE SOLUTION OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ALL SO FAR WANT TO RECOGNIZE SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS. AGGRESSIVE FORCES, AND THEY DO EXIST IN THE WORLD, ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE SEATS OF TENSION, TO SOLVE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS BEHIND THE BACK OF PEOPLES AND, NATURALLY, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS.

AN ELOQUENT EXAMPLE OF SUCH AN APPROACH ARE THE ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT THE STRUGGLE TO ELIMINATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND ESTABLISH A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS THE ATTEMPTS OF ISRAEL AND ITS BACKERS TO EVADE A CARDINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT ON THE BASIS OF A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES, OCCUPIED IN 1967, THAT PREVENT THE LIQUIDATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST SEAT OF TENSIONS.

SOME PEOPLE SAY IT IS EXPEDIENT TO CONVENE A SO-CALLED UNOFFICIAL PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET UNION'S PROPOSAL OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE IDEA OF THIS MEETING CANNOT BE QUALIFIED AS ANYTHING BUT EVASION OF CONVENING THE CONFERENCE. IT IS SAID THAT THE HOLDING OF A PRELIMINARY MEETING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AT SUCH A CONFERENCE. BUT WHO EVER SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD NOT TAKE PART IN ANY MEETING AND ANY CONFERENCE?

CONSEQUENTLY, WE MUST REMOVE THE QUESTION OF OBLIGATORY PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN IN FACT RECOGNIZED BY THE WHOLE WORLD. AND IF SO, IT IS LESS TO ARTIFICIALLY PILE UP OBSTACLES TO THE CONVOCATION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND INSTITUTE IN SORT OF GYMNASTICS IN POLITICS.

THE CONVOCATION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES IS THE MOST RELIABLE WAY TO CONSIDER THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. DEFINITE CONCERN LATELY IS AROUSED ALSO BY THE SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA WHICH IS DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. SOME PEOPLE APPARENTLY DO NOT LIKE THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA DEFEND THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS INCLUDING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO BECOME THE FULL MASTERS OF THEIR NATIONAL RESOURCES AND FIRST OF ALL--OIL.

THE SOVIET UNION STRONGLY URGES THAT PEACE SHOULD BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN THIS REGION ALSO AND EVERY FACILITY BE CREATED FOR THE INDEPENDENT AND EQUAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES. THE PROBLEM IS TO SPREAD THE FAVOURABLE CHANGES, UNDER WAY ON THE WORLD ARENA, TO THIS REGION ALSO SO THAT ALL FOREIGN WAR BASES SHOULD BE LIQUIDATED IN THE PERSIAN GULF ZONE, FREEDOM OF SHIPPING SHOULD BE GUARANTEED IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND HORMUZ STRAIT AND THAT TRUST AND GOODNEIGHBOUR COOPERATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

IN CONCLUSION ANDREY GROMYKO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE VISIT OF THE KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE USSR WILL REPRESENT A NEW MARK IN BROADENING MUTUALLY-PROFITABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USSR AND KUWAIT IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND OTHER FIELDS AND WILL REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2 DEC 2016Z RLL/WK ****